(c) the action taken so far on the above survival/revival plan by Government?

THE MINSTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The management of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has submitted to the Chairman, CIL on 21.7.2000 a survival/revival Plan of ECL.

(b) The broad outlines of the proposal and action to be taken included, among other things increase in production, redeployment of equipment, increase in capacity utilisation and rationalisation/re-deployment of manpower.

(c) Coal India Limited (CIL), the holding company of ECL, had engaged Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) in 1998 to suggest measures for revival of ECL. The report of ICICI on revival of ECL is under consideration in Government of India.

Proposed Closure of ECL Mines

318. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman, Coal India Ltd. met the Chief Minister of West Bengal recently and proposed closure of 56 mines of ECL;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether this proposal is in line with the earlier proposal to examine the issue by a joint committee which included CS, West Bengal, Chairman, ECL and TU representatives;

(d) whether the current proposals take into account the gross mismanagement and lack of accountability of ECL and the serious social consequences of the proposed move; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) The Chairman of Coal India Limited (CIL) had paid a courtesy visit to Chief

Minister of West Bengal on 4.6.2001. During the courtesy call, the Chief Minister of West Bengal enquired about the proposal for closure of loss making mines in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). The Chairman, CIL informed him that there was no change in the earlier proposal of closure of mines in ECL.

Mine accidents in rainy season

†319. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more accidents take place in coal mines during the rainy season; and

(b) if so, what precautions Government have taken so far for avoiding accidents in the coal mines in the rainy season this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir. No definite seasonal pattern in discerned regarding the occurrence of accidents in coal mines of CIL, which can be seen from the following table:-

Year	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December
1996	32	23	20	21
1997	29	26	22	22
1998	20	23	26	22
1999	20	24	25	25
2000	24	19	20	16
TOTAL	125	115	113	106

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to part 'a' of the question above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.